

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method of reducing the serum level in a mammal of any one or more of the following:

- a) cholesterol;
- b) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol relative to high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol;
- c) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol;
- d) very low density lipoprotein (VLDL) cholesterol;
- e) apolipoprotein B; and
- f) triglycerides

by the ingestion of a composition containing β -casein where the β -casein is comprised of at least 95% β -casein A².

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 where the β -casein is comprised solely of β -casein A².

3. (original) A method for treating any disease or disorder associated with mammalian serum total cholesterol levels, LDL cholesterol levels, apolipoprotein B levels, or triglyceride levels by the ingestion of a composition containing β -casein where the β -casein is comprised of at least 95% β -casein A².

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the disease or disorder is selected from hypercholesterolemia hyperlipidemia, and atherosclerosis.

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ where the composition is a food or food product.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 5 where the food or food product is milk or a product containing or processed from milk.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ where the composition is a dietary supplement.

8. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7 where the dietary supplement is a nutraceutical which is ingested for optimizing any one or more of the group consisting of performance during exercise, weight loss, weight gain, muscle building, and muscle repair.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ where the composition is milk containing β -

casein where the β -casein is comprised of at least 95% β -casein A².

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9 where the β -casein is comprised solely of β -casein A².

11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ where the composition has been formed by the addition of an amount of β -casein A² sufficient to alter serum cholesterol levels and/or serum triglyceride levels in a human.

12. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ where the β -casein A² is obtained from the milk of bovine cattle or from the milk of yaks, buffalo, sheep or goats.

13. (original) The use of β -casein A² in the manufacture of a composition for reducing the serum level in a mammal of any one or more of the following:

- a) cholesterol;
- b) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol relative to high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol;
- c) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol;
- d) very low density lipoprotein (VLDL) cholesterol;

- e) apolipoprotein B; and
- f) triglycerides

14. (original) A dietary supplement formed by the addition of β -casein to a food or drink for human consumption where the β -casein is comprised of at least 95% β -casein A².

15. (original) A dietary supplement as claimed in claim 13 where the β -casein is comprised solely of β -casein A².

16. (original) A dietary supplement as claimed in claim 13 where the β -casein A² is obtained from the milk of bovine cattle or from the milk of yaks, buffalo, sheep or goats.